

Mr. Speaker, I say to you today, we must take a good hard look at our leadership in America. I say to you today, we must hold them accountable for mistake after mistake we have committed in this war. We must hold them accountable for the deaths of our young people, and we must hold them accountable for the unjust torture of our prisoners of war.

Mr. Speaker, it is not a question of who committed these unbelievable acts of torture. It is not a question of who, but what. What led to this flagrant disregard for the humanity of our fellow human beings?

Those at the highest level of this government, the President, the Vice President and the Secretary of Defense, they have all created the climate and the environment that led to these abuses. They have disregarded the sovereignty of another nation. Now our soldiers have disregarded the humanity of the citizens of Iraq.

Violence begets violence, Mr. Speaker. A military overthrow of another government does not lead to a peaceful democracy.

American soldiers smiling as they humiliate citizens of Iraq. There must be a sense of righteous indignation in America about what happened in those prison cells, and there must be a sense of righteous indignation in this Congress against these unspeakable acts.

Mr. Speaker, I have said it in the past, and I will say it again today: war is messy. It is bloody. It tends to not just hide the truth, but to sacrifice the truth.

Why did it take so long for this information to come out? Why did the officials at the highest level of government try to hide these crimes against humanity? Why did they try to cover them up?

Mr. Speaker, we have made mistakes, yes; but it is not enough to issue an apology. It is not enough to say we are sorry. We should issue an apology, but we should say we are sorry also.

But, Mr. Speaker, the handwriting is on the wall. It is time for us to get out. It is time for us to bring our young men and our young women home. It is time for us to close this very dark and sordid chapter in the history of our great Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEHAN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. ESHOO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ESHOO addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HASTINGS of Florida addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARKEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CONYERS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEKS of New York addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GREEN of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. RUSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONDEMNING MISTREATMENT OF IRAQI PRISONERS AND REMARKS ON CREATING A DYNAMIC 21ST CENTURY ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

CONDEMNING MISTREATMENT OF IRAQI PRISONERS

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have some remarks that I am going to share with our colleagues on the 21st century economy and some of the challenges that we are going to face, but I would like to preface my remarks by responding to some of the issues that have been raised by my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), my colleague, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON), and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), who spoke just before me.

There is in fact righteous indignation, as the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) just said, over what we as a Nation have seen take place in the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq.

We as a Nation and as a people are outraged over this treatment of prisoners. It appears to be in clear violation of the Geneva Convention, and I believe that we have a responsibility to do everything that we can as a body to clearly state the outrage that we have.

As I said in response to the remarks being made by my colleague, the gentleman from California (Ms. WATSON), Mr. Speaker, we are working at this moment on a resolution that I hope very much can enjoy bipartisan support that will allow every single Member of this House to go on record expressing what the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) correctly describes as righteous indignation over what we have observed.

Now, the closing remarks that were just offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) had to do with the call for our withdrawal from Iraq; and